

Sustainable Englewood Initiatives

May 18, 2021

Good morning Chairman Teresa Cordova, Vice Chair Smita Shah and members of the Chicago Plan Commission.

Sustainable Englewood Initiatives (SEI) a local advocacy organization working on social and economic equity matters for the Greater Englewood district.

We wish to add our organizational support for this long awaited project to bring mixed use development to the 61st street and Halsted Corridor. We appreciate the collective work of the developer and the Englewood Black Chamber of Commerce to bring this project forward through various localized elections and officials. Quite an amazing accomplishment!

We appreciate the zeal of Alderman Stephanie Coleman of promoting economic activity along Halsted street and the elimination of blighted conditions.

We appreciate the zeal of the staff of both the Department of Planning and Department of Housing for reminding the development team of Chicago's renewed interest to expand the Sustainable Chicago Plan and Transit Oriented Development options.

It is our collective hope that the city and Corporation Counsel work to ensure some level of wealth sharing within this development considering the significant use of Federal and Local tax incentives. Therefore, localized support groups like Greater Englewood CDC and/or Englewood Black Chamber of Commerce be considered for an equity share. Furthermore, that dollars deriving from this project under the Open Space Fund be earmarked for the implementation of the New Englewood Remaking America (ERA) Trail along 59th street.

To this end, we applaud the collective work demonstrated to move this project toward construction.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our comments before your commission.

John Paul Jones
Founder and President
SEI